

ANNUAL MESSAGE.

Continued From Second Page.

rier force, which now numbers 13,000 men, and performs its service practically everywhere, and is expected to cover all other branches of the postal or public service. Of course, such a lack of supervision and freedom from wholesome disciplinary restraints must inevitably lead to imperfect service. There should also be appointed a few inspectors who could assist the central office in necessary investigation concerning matters of postoffice leases, postoffice sites, allowances for rent, fuel, and lights, and in organizing and securing the best results from the work of the 11,000 clerks now employed in first and second class offices.

I am convinced that the small expense attending the inaugurations of these reforms would actually be a profitable investment. I especially recommend such a re-casting of the postoffice, by Congress, for the postoffice debt, as well as the best means of proceeding to proceed with the work of consolidating postoffices. This work has already been entered upon sufficiently to fully demonstrate by experiment and experience that such consolidation is productive of better service, larger revenues, and less expenditures, to say nothing of the further advantage of gradually withdrawing postoffices from the spoils system.

The universal postal union, which now embraces all the civilized world, and whose delegates will represent 1,000,000,000 people will hold its fifth Congress in the city of Washington, in May, 1897. The United States may be said to have taken the initiative, which led to the first meeting of this Congress at Berlin, in 1874, and the formation of the universal postal union, which binds the postal service of all countries to every man's neighborhood and has wrought marvels in cheapening postal rates and securing absolutely safe mail communication throughout the world.

The New Navy.

The construction of vessels for our new navy has been energetically prosecuted by the present administration upon the general lines previously adopted, the department having seen no need for radical changes in prior methods under which the work was found to be progressing in a manner highly satisfactory. It had been decided, however, to provide in every ship-building contract that the builders should pay all trial expenses, and it has also been determined to pay no speed premiums in future contracts. The premiums recently earned and some yet to be earned, are features of the contracts made before this conclusion was reached.

On March 4, 1893, there were in commission but two armored vessels, the double turreted monitors, *Minnesota* and *Monterey*. Since that date, of vessels therefore authorized, there have been placed in their first commission three first-class and two second-class battleships, two armored cruisers, and one harbor defense monitor, and five double turreted monitors, including the *Albatross* and the *Puritan*, just completed.

Eight new unarmored cruisers and two new gun boats have also been commissioned. The Iowa, another battleship, will be completed about March 1, and at least four more gunboats will be ready for sea in the early spring. It is gratifying to state that our ships and our harbor defense monitors are equal to the best that can be manufactured elsewhere, and that such notable reductions have been made in their cost, as to justify the statement that quite a number of vessels are now being constructed at rates as low as those that prevail in European ship yards.

Our manufacturing facilities are at least ample for all possible naval contingencies. Three of our government navy yards, those at Mare Island, California, Norfolk, Va., and Brooklyn, N. Y., are equipped for ship-building, our ordnance plant in Washington is equal to any in the world, and at the torpedo station we are successfully making the highest grades of smokeless powder. Three first-class private shipyards, at Newport News, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, are building battle ships; even contractors situated in the states of Maine, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and the state of Washington, are constructing gun-boats or torpedo boats. Two plants are manufacturing large quantities of first-class armor, and American factories are producing automobiles, machine tools, projectiles, rapid-fire guns, and everything else necessary for the complete outfit of naval vessels.

There have been authorized by Congress since March, 1893, five battleships, six light-draft gun-boats, sixteen torpedo boats and one submarine torpedo boat. Contracts for the building of all of them have been let. The secretary expresses the opinion that we have the present a sufficient supply of cruisers and gunboats, and that hereafter the construction of battleships and torpedo boats will supply our needs.

The war college has developed into an institution which it is believed will be of great value to the navy, in teaching the science of war, as well as in stimulating professional skill in the devising of plans for the utilization, in case of necessity, of all the naval resources of the United States.

The secretary has persistently adhered to the plan he found in operation for securing labor at navy yards, through hours of labor employment, and has done much to make it more complete and efficient.

Interior Department.

The report of the secretary of the interior presents a comprehensive and interesting exhibit of the numerous and important affairs committed to his supervision. It is impossible in this communication to do more than briefly refer to a few of the subjects concerning which the secretary gives full and instructive information.

The money appropriated on account of this department and for its disbursement for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, amounted to more than \$17,000,000, or a greater sum than was appropriated for the entire maintenance of the government for the two fiscal years ended June 30, 1891.

Our public lands, originally amounting to 1,849,000,000 acres, have been so reduced that only about 699,000,000 acres still remain in government control, excluding Alaska. The balance, 1,150,000,000 acres, has been given away to settlers, to new states, and to railroads, or sold at a comparatively nominal sum.

The patenting of land in execution of railroad grants has progressed rapidly during the year, and since the 1st day of March, 1893, about 25,000,000 acres have thus been conveyed to these corporations.

In accordance with the secretary that the remainder of our public lands should be more carefully dealt with and the alienation guarded by better economy and greater wisdom.

The commission appointed from the membership of the National Academy of Sciences, provided for by an act of Congress, to formulate plans for a national forestry system, will, it is hoped, soon be prepared to present the result of thorough and intelligent examination of this important subject.

The total Indian population of the United States is 177,235, according to a census made in 1895, exclusive of those within the state of New York, and those of the five civilized tribes. Of this number there are approximately 23,000 children of school age. During the year 23,872 of these were enrolled in schools. The progress which has attended recent efforts to extend Indian school facilities and the anticipation of continued liberal appropriations to that end, have given rise to the belief that the education of Indian children is a prime factor in the accomplishment of Indian civilization.

It may be said in general terms that in every particular the improvement of the Indians under government

care has been most marked and encouraging.

The secretary, the commissioner of Indian affairs, and the agents having charge of Indians to whom allotments have been made, strongly urge the passage of a law prohibiting the sale of liquor to allottees who have taken their lands in severalty. I earnestly join in this recommendation, and venture to express the hope that the Indian may be fully protected against this greatest of all obstacles to his well being and advancement.

The condition of affairs among the five civilized tribes, who occupy large tracts of land in the Indian Territory and who have governments of their own, has assumed such an aspect as to render it almost indispensable that there should be an entire change in the relations of these Indians to the general government.

This seems to be necessary in furtherance of their own interests, as well as for the protection of non-Indian residents in their territory. A commission organized and empowered under several recent laws is now negotiating with these Indians for the relinquishment of their lands and the division of their common lands in severalty, and are aiding in the settling of a public land question of tribal membership. The reduction of their first efforts of negotiation was not encouraging; but through patience and such conduct on their part as demonstrated that their intentions were friendly and in the interest of the tribes, the prospect of success has become more promising. The efforts should be to save these Indians from the consequences of their own mistakes and improvidence, and to secure to the real Indian his rights as against intruders and professional friends who profit by his retrogression.

I endorse the recommendation made by the present secretary of the interior, as well as his predecessor, that a permanent commission, consisting of three members, one of whom shall be an army officer, be created to perform the duties of the Indian commissioner, the commissioner and assistant commissioner of Indian affairs. The management of the bureau involves such numerous and diverse details and the advantages of an uninterrupted policy are so apparent, that I hope the change suggested will meet the approval of the Congress.

Pensions.

The diminution of our enormous pension roll and the decrease of pension expenditure, which have been so often confidently foretold, still fall in material realization. The number of pensioners on the rolls at the close of the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, was 570,678. This is the largest number ever reported. The amount paid exclusively for pensions during the year was \$13,214,754.94, a slight decrease from that of the preceding year, while the total expenditure on account of pensions, including the cost of maintaining the department and expenses attending pension distribution amounted to \$14,236,550.39, or within a very small fraction of the total of the entire expenditure of the department during the same year. The number of new pension certificates issued was 50,640. Of these, 49,574 represent original allowances of claims and 1,066 increase of existing pensions.

The number of persons receiving pensions from the United States, but residing in foreign countries at the close of the last fiscal year, was 3,751, and the amount paid to them during the year was \$12,528.25.

The sum appropriated for the payment of pensions for the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, is \$14,000,000, and for the succeeding year it is estimated that the same amount will be necessary.

The commissioner of pensions reports that during the last fiscal year 359 indictments were returned against violators of the pension laws. Upon these indictments 167 convictions resulted.

In my opinion, based upon such statements as these, and much other information and observation, the abuses which have been allowed to creep in to our pension system have done incalculable harm in demoralizing our people and undermining good citizenship. I have endeavored within my sphere of official duty to bring our pension roll and make it what it should be, a roll of honor, containing the names of those disabled in their country's service and worthy of their country's affectionate remembrance.

When I have seen those who pose as the soldiers' friends, active and alert in urging greater laxity and more reckless pension expenditure, while nursing selfish schemes, I have been tempted to exclaim, "I have seen the situation when necessary retrenchment and enforced economy may lead to an attack upon pension abuses, so determined as to overlook the discrimination due to those who, worthy of a nation's care, ought to live and die under the protection of a nation's gratitude."

Pacific Railroads.

The secretary calls attention to the public interests involved in an adjustment of the obligations of the Pacific railroads to the government. I deem it to be an important duty to especially present this subject to the consideration of the Congress. On January 1, 1897, with the amount already matured, more than \$12,000,000 of the principal of the subsidy bonds issued by the United States in aid of the construction of the Union Pacific railway including its branches, line, and over \$1,000,000 of like bonds secured in aid of the Central Pacific railroad, including those loaned to the Western Pacific Railroad Company, will have fallen due and been paid or must on that day be paid by the government. Without any reference to the application of the sinking fund now in the treasury, this will create such a default on the part of the companies as to force the government to institute proceedings to foreclose its mortgage lien. In addition to this indebtedness, which will be due January 1, 1897, there will mature between that date and January 1, 1899, the remaining principal of such subsidy bonds which must also be met by the government. These amounts to more than \$20,000,000 on account of the Union Pacific line, and over \$21,000,000 on account of the Central Pacific line.

The situation of these roads and the condition of their indebtedness to the government have been fully set forth in the reports of various committees to the present and prior Congresses; and as early as 1887 they were thoroughly examined by a special commission appointed pursuant to an act of Congress, the report of which requiring an adjustment of the government's relations to the companies have been clearly presented, and the conclusion reached with practical uniformity, that if those relations are not terminated they should be revised upon a basis securing their safe continuance.

Under section 4 of the act of Congress, approved March 3, 1887, the President is charged with the duty, in the event that any mortgage or other incumbrance paramount to the interest of the United States in the property of the Pacific railroads shall exist and be lawfully liable to be enforced to direct the action of the departments of treasury and of justice in the protection of the interest of the United States by redemption or through judicial proceedings, including foreclosures of the government liens.

In view of the fact that the Congress has for a number of years almost constantly had under consideration various plans for dealing with the conditions existing between these roads and the government, it is not surprising that justified in withholding action under the status above mentioned.

In the case of the Union Pacific company, however, the situation has become especially and immediately urgent. Proceedings have been instituted to foreclose a first mortgage upon those subsidy bonds of the company, and the government holds a second and subordinate mortgage lien. In consequence of these proceedings and increasing complications, added to the default occurring on the first day of January, 1897, a condition will be present at that date, so far as this company is concerned, that the mandate of the act of 1887 and

give to executive duty under its provisions a more imperative aspect.

Therefore, unless Congress shall otherwise determine upon a different solution of the problem, there will hardly appear to exist any reason for delaying beyond the date of the default above mentioned such executive action as will promise to subserve the public interests and save the government from the loss threatened by further inaction.

Agricultural Department.

The department of agriculture is so intimately related to the welfare of our people and the prosperity of our nation that it should certainly receive the care and encouragement of the government.

From small beginnings, it has grown to be the centre of agricultural intelligence and the source of aid and encouragement to agricultural efforts. Large sums of money are annually appropriated for the maintenance of this department and it must be confessed that the legislation relating to it has not always been directly in the interest of practical farming or properly guarded against waste and extravagance. So far, however, as public money has been appropriated fairly and sensibly to help those who actually till the soil, no expenditure has been more profitably made or more generally approved by the people.

Under the present management of the department its usefulness has been enhanced in every direction, and at the same time strict economy has been enforced to the utmost extent permitted by congressional action. From the report of the secretary it appears that through careful and prudent financial management he has actually saved a large sum from his appropriations, not retreating during his incumbency and up to the close of the present fiscal year nearly one-fifth of the entire amount appropriated. These results have been accomplished by a conscientious study of the real needs of the farmer and such regard for economy as the genuine farmer ought to appreciate, supplemented by a rigid adherence to the service which the department which should be conducted in the interest of agriculture instead of partisan politics. The secretary reports that the value of our exports of farm products during the last fiscal year amounted to \$570,000,000, an increase of \$17,000,000 over those of the year immediately preceding. This statement is not the less welcome, because of the fact that, notwithstanding such increase, the production of exported agricultural products to our total exports of all descriptions of an increase in agricultural exports being assured, the decrease in its proportion to our total exports is the more gratifying when we consider that it is owing to the fact that such total exports for the year increased more than \$75,000,000.

The large and increasing exportation of our agricultural products sustains the great usefulness of the organization lately established in the department for the purpose of giving to those engaged in farming pursuits reliable information concerning the condition, needs and advantages of different foreign markets. Inasmuch as the success of the farmer depends upon the advantageous sale of his products, and inasmuch as the foreign markets must largely be the destination of such products, it is quite apparent that a knowledge of the conditions and wants that affect these markets ought to result in sowing more intelligently and reaping with a better promise of profit. Such information points out the way to a prudent foresight in the selection and cultivation of crops and to a release from the bondage of unbusinesslike methods of production in a depressed and depressed market. In my opinion, the gratuitous distribution of seeds by the department as at present conducted ought to be discontinued. No one can read the statement of the secretary on this subject and doubt the extravagance and questionable results of this practice. The professed friends of the farmer, and certainly the farmers themselves, are naturally expected to be willing to rid a department devoted to the promotion of farming interests, of a feature, which tends so much to its discredit.

The weather bureau, now attached to the department of agriculture, has continued to extend its sphere of usefulness, and by uninterrupted government support has become a bureau of aid and protection to all whose occupations are related to weather conditions.

Omitting further reference to the operations of the department, I commend the secretary's report and the suggestions it contains to the careful consideration of the Congress.

Civil Service Reform.

The progress made in civil service reform furnishes a cause for the utmost congratulation. It has survived the doubts of its friends as well as the rancor of its enemies, and has gained a permanent place among the agencies destined to cleanse our politics and to improve, economize and elevate the public service. There are now in the competitive classes upward of eighty-four thousand persons. More than half of these have been included from time to time since March 1, 1895, and an radical and sweeping extension was made by executive order dated the 6th day of May, 1896, and if fourth class postmasterships are not included in the statement, it may be said that practically all positions contemplated by the civil service law are now classified. Abundant reasons exist for including these postmasterships, inasmuch as they are improved service and the peace and quiet of neighborhoods. If, however, obstacles prevent such action at present, I earnestly hope that Congress will, without increasing postoffice appropriations, so adjust them as to permit in proper cases a consolidation of these postoffices, to the end that through this process the result desired may be attained.

The civil service rules as amended during the last year provide for a sensible and uniform method of promotion during eligibility to better positions upon demonstrated efficiency and faithfulness. The absence of fixed rules on this subject has been an infirmity in the system more and more apparent as its other benefits have been better appreciated. The advanced civil service methods in their business aspects are too well understood to require argument. Their application has become a necessity to the executive work of the government. But those who gain positions through the operation of these methods should be made to understand the non-partisan scheme through which they have obtained their appointments demands from them, by way of reciprocity, non-partisan and faithful performance of duty under every administration, and cheerful fidelity to every chief. While they should be encouraged to decently exercise their rights of citizenship and to support through their suffrages the political beliefs which they honestly profess, the noisy, pestilent and partisan employee who loves political turmoil and contention, or who renders lax and grudging service to the administration not representing his political views, should be promptly and fearlessly dealt with, in such a way as to furnish a warning to others who may be likewise disposed.

The annual report of the commissioner will be only transmitted and I commend the important matter they have in charge to the careful consideration of Congress.

Interstate Commerce.

The Interstate commerce commission has, during the last year, supplied abundant evidence of its usefulness and the importance of the work committed to its charge. Public transportation has been improved, justice, and the question of just and equitable charges has therefore become of vital importance not only to shippers and carriers, but also to the vast multitude of producers and consumers. The justice and equity of the principles embodied in the existing law passed for the purpose of regulating these charges are everywhere,

and there appears to be no question that the policy thus entered upon has a permanent place in our legislation.

As the present statute, which entered upon its history of more than a year or less tentative and experimental, it was hardly expected to supply a complete and adequate system. While its wholesome effects are manifest and have amply justified its enactment, it is evident that all desired reforms in transportation methods have not been fully accomplished.

In view of the judicial interpretation which some provisions of the statute have received and the defects by the efforts made for its enforcement, its revision and amendment appear to be essential to the end that it may more effectually reach the evils designed to be corrected. I hope the recommendation of the commission upon this subject will be promptly and favorably considered by the Congress.

The Sherman-Wilson Bill.

I desire to recur to the statements elsewhere made concerning the government's receipts and expenditures for the purpose of venturing upon some suggestions touching our present tariff law and its operation.

This statute took effect on the 28th day of August, 1894. Whatever may be its shortcomings as a complete measure of tariff reform, it must be conceded that it has opened the way to a fair and equal comparison of revenue collected between us and other countries, and thus furnished a wider market for our products and manufactures. The only entire fiscal year during which this law has been in force ended on the 30th day of June, 1896. In that year our imports increased over those of the previous year more than \$5,000,000, while the value of the domestic products we exported and which found markets abroad was nearly \$50,000,000 more than during the preceding year.

Those who insist that the cost of our people of articles coming to them from abroad for their useful use should only be increased through tariff charges to an extent necessary to meet the expenses of the government as well as those who claim that tariff charges are laid upon such articles beyond the necessities of commerce, revenue, and with the additional purpose of increasing the price in our markets, as to give American manufacture and producers better and more profitable opportunities, must agree that our tariff laws are only primarily justified as sources of revenue to enable the government to meet the necessary expenses of its maintenance. Considered from this point of view, the present law can by no means fall under just condemnation. During the only complete fiscal year of its operation it has yielded nearly \$3,000,000 more revenue than was received from tariff duties in the preceding year. There was, nevertheless, a deficit between our receipts and expenditures of a little more than \$25,000,000. This, however, was not unexpected, inasmuch as in December last, seven months before the close of the fiscal year, that the report of the treasury foretold a deficiency of \$17,000,000.

The great and increasing apprehension and timidity in business circles, and the depression in all activities intervening since that time resulting from causes perfectly well understood and entirely disconnected with our tariff law, is a fact which cannot be denied. The imports we would have otherwise received, and readily accept of the difference between this estimate of the secretary, and the actual deficiency, as well as for a continued deficit.

Indeed, it must be confessed that we could hardly have had a more unfavorable period than the last two years for the collection of tariff revenue. We could hardly have had a more unfavorable period than this business depression from this business depression.

I believed our present tariff law, if allowed a fair opportunity, will in the near future, yield a revenue which, with reasonably economical expenditures, will overcome all deficiencies. In the meantime, the government has incurred or may incur, need excite our indignation. To meet any such deficit we have in the treasury in addition to a gold reserve of one hundred million a surplus of more than one hundred and twenty-eight millions of dollars applicable to the payment of the expenses of the government, and which must, unless expended for that purpose, remain idle, or, if not so, be extravagantly wasted must in any case be diverted from the purposes of its exaction from our people. The payment, therefore, of any deficiency in the revenue from this fund is nothing more than its proper and legitimate use.

The government thus applying a surplus fortunately in its treasury to the payment of expenses not met by its current revenues, is not to be compared to a man living beyond his income and thus incurring debt or embezzling on his principal.

It is not one of the functions of our government to accumulate and make additions to a fund not needed for immediate expenditure. With individuals it is the chief object of struggle and effort, the application of an accumulated fund to the payment of the payment of its running expenses, and duty. An individual living beyond his income and embarrassing himself with debt, or drawing upon his accumulated fund of principal, is either unfortunate or improvident.

The difference between a government charged with the duty of expending for the benefit of the people and for proper purposes all the money it receives from any source, and the individual who is expected to manifest a natural desire to avoid debt or to accumulate as much as possible and to live within the income derived from such accumulations to the end that they may be increased or at least remain unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment of himself and the objects of his love and affection who may survive him.

It is immeasurably better to appropriate our surplus to the payment of justifiable expenses than to allow it to become an invitation to reckless appropriations during these details of expenditures.

I suppose it will not be denied that under the present law our people obtain the necessities of a comfortable existence at a cheaper rate than they formerly did. This is a matter of supreme importance, since it is the palpable duty of every just government to make the burdens of taxation as light as possible. The people should not be required to relinquish this privilege of cheaper living except under the stress of their government's necessity make plainly manifest.

Currency Reform Necessary.

This reference to the condition and prospects of our revenue naturally suggests an allusion to the weakness and vices of our financial methods. They have been frequently pressed upon executive mention of Congress in previous years, and the inevitable result has been a constant repeating these details, without new refrain from again earnestly sending the necessity of the prompt reform of a system opposed to every rule of sound finance and shown by experience to be fraught with the gravest peril and perplexity. The terrible evil which shook the foundations of our government, and the destruction of our country's substance, and the estrangement of brethren. There are now past and forgotten. Even the distressing loss of life the conflict entailed is but a sacred memory, which fosters tender sentiment and keeps alive a tender regard for those who nobly died. And yet there remains with the nation, in full strength and activity, as a feature of that tremendous struggle, an inheritance of financial necessities, not only limited to our present circumstances, but manifestly a disturbing menace to business security and an ever-present agent of monetary distress.

As we may be enjoying a temporary relief from its depressing influence, this should not lead us into a false security of past visitations. I am more

convinced than ever that we can have no sound financial peace and safety until the government currency obligations upon which gold may be demanded from the treasury are withdrawn from circulation and cancelled. This might be done, as has been heretofore recommended, by their exchange for long-term bonds, bearing a low rate of interest or by their redemption with the proceeds of such bonds. Even if only the United States notes, which are greenbacks, were thus retired it is probable that the treasury notes issued in payment of silver purchases under the act of July 14, 1890, now paid in gold, when demanded, would not create much disturbance as they might, from time to time, when received at the treasury by redemption in gold or otherwise, be gradually and prudently replaced by silver coin.

The plan of issuing bonds for the purpose of redemption certainly appears to be the most effective and direct path to the needed reform. This operation would be a slow remedy, but it would insure present confidence.

National banks should redeem their own notes. They should be allowed to leave circulation to the par value of bonds deposited as security for its redemption, and the tax on their circulation should be reduced to one-fourth of 1 per cent.

In considering projects for the retirement of United States notes and treasury notes issued under the law of 1890, I am of the opinion that we have placed too much stress upon the danger of contracting the currency, and have calculated too little upon the gold that would be added to our circulation if invited to us by better and safer financial methods. It is not so much a contraction of our currency that should be avoided as its unequal distribution. The removal of gold, and an equal level of harmful contraction at the same time removed by allowing the organization of smaller banks, and in less popular communities than are now permitted, and also authorizing existing banks to establish branches in small communities under proper restrictions.

The entire case may be presented by the statement that the day of stable and sound financial method will dawn upon us, when our government abandons the banking business and the accumulation of funds, and confines its monetary operations to the receipt of the money contributed by the people for its support, and to the expenditure of such money for the people's benefit.

Our business interests and all good citizens long for rest from feverish activity, and for a more sane and sound government of a reformed financial policy which will encourage enterprise and make certain the rewards of labor and industry.

Trusts Denounced.

Another topic in which our people rightly take a deep interest may be here briefly considered. I refer to the existence of trusts and other huge aggregations of capital, the object of which is to secure the monopoly of some particular branch of trade, industry, or commerce and to stifle wholesome competition. When these are defended it is usually on the ground that though they increase profits they also reduce prices and thus may benefit the public. It must be remembered, however, that a reduction of prices to the people is not one of the real objects of these organizations, nor is their tendency necessarily in that direction. It occurs in a particular case, only because it accords with the purposes or interests of those managing the scheme, such occasional results fall far short of compensating the palpable evils charged to the account of trusts and monopolies. Their tendency is to crush out individual independence and to hinder or prevent the free use of human faculties and the development of human character.

Through the former the artisan and the small trader is in danger of dislodgment from the proud position of being his own master, watchful of all that touches his country's prosperity, in which he has an individual lot and interest in all that affects the advancement of the progress of the nation. He is to be relegated to a mere appendage to a great machine, with little free will, with no duty but that of passive obedience, and with little hope or opportunity of rising in the scale of responsible and hopeful citizenship.

To the instinctive belief that such is the inevitable trend of trusts and monopolies during the widespread and deepened depression in which they are held and the not infrequent incidence, that whatever may be their incidental economic advantages, their general effect upon personal character, prospects and usefulness cannot be otherwise than injurious.

Though Congress has attempted to deal with this matter by legislation, the laws passed for that purpose thus far have proved inefficient and because of any lack of disposition or attempt to enforce them, but simply because the laws themselves as interpreted by the courts do not reach the difficulty. If the insufficiencies of existing laws can be remedied by further legislation it should be done. The fact must be recognized, however, that all federal legislation on this subject must fall short of its purpose because of the complex character of our governmental system, which, while making the federal authority supreme within its sphere, has carefully limited that sphere by mores and bounds which cannot be overcome. The decision of our high court on this precise question renders it quite doubtful whether the evils of trusts and monopolies can be adequately treated through federal action, unless they seek directly and purposefully to include in their objects transportation between states or between the United States and foreign countries.

It does not follow, however, that this is the limit of the remedy that may be applied. Even though it may be found that federal authority is not broad enough to reach such cases, there can be no doubt of the necessity of the several states to act effectively in the premises, and there should be no reason to doubt their willingness to judiciously exercise such power. In concluding this communication its last words shall be an appeal to the Congress for the most liberal economy in the expenditure of the money it holds in trust for the people. The way to perplexing extravagance is easy, but a return to frugality is difficult.

When, however, it is considered that those who bear the burdens of taxation have no guaranty of honest care save in the fidelity of their public servants, the duty of all possible retrenchment is plainly manifest.

When our differences are forgotten, and the necessities of public opinion are no longer remembered, nothing in the retrospect of our public service will be as fortunate and comforting as the recollection of official duty well performed and the memory of a constant devotion to the interests of our confiding fellow-citizens. GROVER CLEVELAND, Executive Mansion, Dec. 7, 1896.

Blood is Life.

It is the medium which carries to every nerve, muscle, organ and fibre its nourishment and strength. If the blood is pure, rich and healthy you will be strong, if impure, diseased, will soon overtake you. Hood's Sarsaparilla has power to keep you in health by making your blood rich and pure.

HOOD'S PILLS are easy to take, easy to operate. Cure indigestion, biliousness, etc.

"ENCORE me," observed the man in spectacles, "but I am a surgeon, and it is in my duty to tell you that the other 'if it was in his hands' is not left out. Hood's Little Early Buds would reach it and shake it for him. On that you can bet your gizzards." Charles R. Goetze, corner Twelfth and Market streets; Howie & Co., Bridgeport; Peabody & Son, Newwood.

THE King of Pills is Beecham's-BEECHAM'S.

HOW THEY SUCCEEDED.

The Experience of Others Should be a Valuable Lesson for Us.

How many people we meet these days who complain of tired, worn out feeling, and seem to be very much "under the weather." There seems to be an epidemic of ill-health and an unusually large number of people are feeling and looking weak and sickly. But there is fortunately a way to overcome these miserable feelings and regain lost health and strength. The remedy of people have discovered this way, and many of them are giving others the benefit of their experience. There is an interesting opinion on the subject:

Mr. E. B. Toulce, of 412 De Kalb avenue, Brooklyn, says: "In the spring and summer I was formerly a constant sufferer from weakness and nervous debility. I tried many remedies, but obtained no relief until I began taking Hood's Little Early Buds. Since I commenced using it, my friends are astonished at my improved appearance."

The above opinion has been taken from thousands of others, all testifying to the same effect. It proves beyond any question that for building up a system and imparting new life to weary people, Hood's Little Early Buds is simply unrivaled. It purifies the blood, quickens the circulation, promotes digestion, cures constipation, and gives new life to every part of the system. All grocers and druggists keep Hood's Little Early Buds, and in purchasing, care should be taken to guard against inferior imitations.

That Catarrh is a Local Affection.

of the nasal passages, is a fact established by physicians, and this authority should carry more weight than assertions of incompetent parties that catarrh is a blood remedy. Dr. J. C. Green claims it is a local remedy, and that it is a harmless and free of injury to the system. Applied directly to the inflamed membrane, it restores it to its healthy condition.

SCALD eruptions on the head, chapped hands and lips, cuts, bruises, scalds, burns are quickly cured by Dr. J. C. Green's Witch Hazel Salve. It is at present the article most used for piles, and it always cures them. Charles H. Goetze, corner Twelfth and Market streets; Howie & Co., Bridgeport; Peabody & Son, Newwood.

Relief in Six Hours.

Distressing kidney and bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "NEW HENRY'S LITTLE EARLY BUDS." This new remedy is a great surprise on account of its extraordinary promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passage in male or female. It relieves retention of water and pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by R. H. Lee, druggist, Wheeling, W. Va.

SOOTHING, and not irritating, strengthening, and not weakening, small, but effective—such are the qualities of DeWitt's Little Early Buds, the famous little pills. Charles R. Goetze, corner Twelfth and Market streets; Howie & Co., Bridgeport; Peabody & Son, Newwood.

YOUNG WIVES
We Offer You a Remedy Which Guarantees SATISFACTION TO LIFE OF Both Mother and Child.

"MOTHERS' FRIEND"
ROBS CONFINEMENT OF ITS PAIN, HORROR AND DANGER. Makes CHILD-BIRTH Easy. Endorsed and recommended by physicians, midwives and those who have used it. Beware of substitutes and imitations. Sent by express or mail, on receipt of price \$1.00 per bottle. Book "TO MOTHERS" mailed free, containing voluntary testimonials. BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

FINANCIAL.
G. LAMB, Pres. JOS. SEYBOLD, Cashier. J. A. JEFFERSON, Asst. Cashier.

BANK OF WHEELING.
CAPITAL \$200,000, PAID IN. WHEELING, W. VA.

DIRECTORS.
Allen Brock, Joseph F. Paul, James Cummins, Henry Heberlein, A. Reymann, Joseph Seybold, Gibson Lamb. Interest paid on special deposits. Drafts on England, Ireland and Scotland. JOSEPH SEYBOLD, Cashier.